

Message Text

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64

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:AMBASSADOR HECK

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186099

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AMBASSADOR HECK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG, ML

SUBJECT: KOUNTCHE'S COMMENTS ON MALI

REF: A) BAMAKO 2513, B) NIAMEY 3292

1. KOUNTCHE'S COMMENTS ABOUT MALI WERE VERY GENERAL AND BRIEF AND AS CONVERSATION WAS DEVELOPING IT WAS NOT OPPORTUNE TO PRESS HIM FOR MORE PRECISE CHARACTERIZATION OF MALI'S FOREIGN POLICY. HOWEVER, AT OTHER MEETINGS WITH KOUNTCHE HE HAS MENTIONED HIS IMPRESSION THAT TRAORE HAS GRADUALLY CHANGED HIS PERCEPTIONS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS IN AFRICA AND IS INCLINED TO BE MORE DISTRUSTFUL OF USSR. KOUNTCHE HAS ALSO SAID THAT AT VARIOUS RECENT ENCOUNTERS WHICH HAVE INCLUDED SENGHOR AND TRAORE, FORMER HAS WORKED ON TRAORE TO TAKE MORE REALISTIC VIEW OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND GOALS IN AFRICA AND TO BE MORE AWARE OF LIBYAN SUBVERSION IN WEST AFRICA. FROM THIS STEMS KOUNTCHE'S APPARENT VIEW THAT TRAORE MAY BE COMING MORE CAUTIOUS IN HIS DEALINGS WITH SOVIETS AND MORE ALERT TO LIBYAN

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ACTIVITIES IN AREA. THIS MAY NOT JUSTIFY TERMS KOUNTCHE

USED DURING MY FAREWELL CALL BUT I HAVE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT KOUNTCHE FEELS TRAORE IS MOVING TOWARDS WHAT KOUNTCHE WOULD DESCRIBE AS MORE REALISTIC AND MODERATE ATTITUDES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EVEN THOUGH WHEN IT COMES

TO VOTES MALI WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO LINE UP WITH "PROGRESSIVES" OR "RADICALS" AS NIGER USUALLY DOES.

2. LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON. WARM REGARDS. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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